

In the Claims

Please substitute the following claims 1 and 2 for claims 1 and 2 now pending in the above-identified application.

Please cancel claims 3 and 4 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

1. (Currently Amended) An immortalized hepatocyte cell culture of human normal cell origin retaining an enzyme activity involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver or the capability of expressing ~~a gene~~ genes encoding ~~an enzyme~~ enzymes involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, wherein ~~said cell is expressing at least three endogenous cytochrome P450 CYP~~ said enzymes are CYP1A1, CYP1A2 and CYP3A genes.

2. (Currently Amended) The cell culture according to Claim 1 wherein the retained enzyme activity is NADPH cytochrome P450 reductase activity, glucuronosyl transferase activity, ethoxyresorufine dealkylation activity, benzyloxyresorufine dealkylation activity, pentoxylresorufine dealkylation ~~activity~~, activity or methoxyresorufine dealkylation activity, ~~flavin monooxygenase activity, epoxy hydratase activity, sulfotransferase activity or glutathione S-transferase activity.~~

Claims 3 and 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The cell culture according to Claim 1 wherein the cell culture is FERM BP-6328.

Claims 6- 11 (Cancelled)